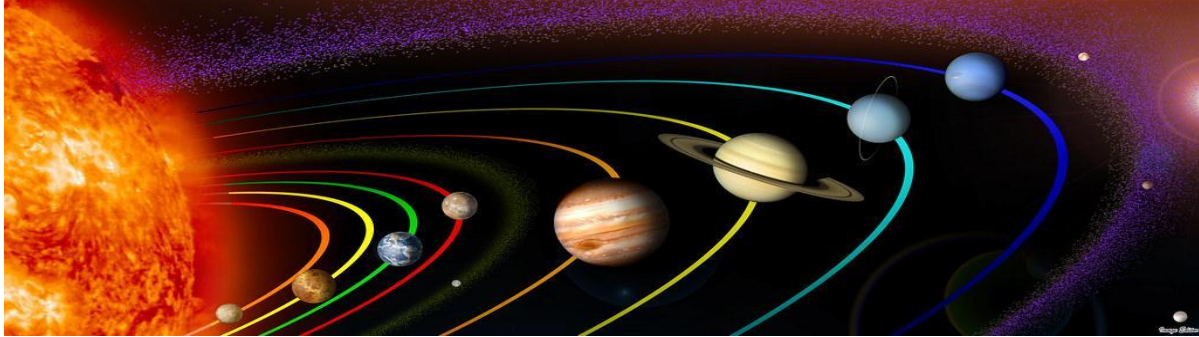


# 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE Systems

Why do you think this is called the Solar System?



What makes something a 'system'?

## Readings

Read the 2 attachments titled Systems 1 and Systems 2.

A system is a collection of *interacting parts* that work together to make a whole or perform a function. So what are the parts of the Solar System? - List them on a sheet of paper

What makes this train a system?



List at least 5 of the parts of this train 'system'.

# 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Some parts of a system can be broken down into smaller systems or 'subsystems'. Looking at your list of parts of a train system, what do you think could be considered a subsystem?

The engine is one example because it consists of many other parts: the computers, the engineer, the electronics, etc. Each one of those could also be considered a subsystem because they have parts of their own!

## SUGGESTED ACTIVITY:

Look around the room you are in right now. Identify 3 things that could be considered a system. (hint: it could be anything from a door to a pencil!) List at least 5-7 of it's interacting parts.

Systems can be as simple as a pair of scissors or as complex as a jet airplane. Complex systems are usually made up of many other complex subsystems. Why do you think is it important for scientists to think in terms of systems and subsystems?

## LOOKING AHEAD:

Next, we will be investigating different systems in the human body.  
Stay tuned!